István Órkény:

Opinion Poll
(From the short story collection *One Minute Stories*)

The first polling institute of our nation has been established, and it has already set to work. We ask for the understanding support of the population.

As proof, we are showing our first study, which we designated to find out what people think of our nation’s past, present and future. To get trustworthy results, we gave 2975 people of different rank, standing, religious affiliation and scope of activities the following questionnaire:

1. *Your opinion of the current system*
   a) Good.
   b) Bad.
   c) Neither bad nor good, but could be a bit better.
   d) Longs to be in Vienna

2. *Do you feel the loneliness of 20th century-man*
   a) Completely lonely
   b) Almost completely lonely
   c) Completely lonely, so to speak
   d) Sometimes talks with the housekeeper

3. *Cultural needs*
   a) Goes to the cinema, to football games and the pub
   b) Sometimes looks out the window
   c) Doesn’t even look out the window
   d) Disapproves of Mao Zedong’s views.

4. *What is you philosophical training?*
   a) Marxist.
   b) Anti-marxist.
   c) Only reads Jenő Rejtő
   d) Alcoholist.

*Results:*
1. During the past twenty years, everything has been great.
2. Right now, everything is good, only bus no.19’s schedule is too sparse
3. The future will be even better, as long as they make bus no.19 come more often.

(Note: they’ll make it come more often.)

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1 Jenő Rejtő (1905-1943). Rejtő was the most popular pulp-author of his time. His novels blended humour and adventure. Despite his works initially getting suppressed by the hardliners of the party, his popularity endured until his works were re-published under the Kádár’s regime following the 1956 revolution. His common subjects are far away lands and the French Foreign Legion.